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Press Release

Nationally Recognized Genealogists Lead Off Lectures on African American Genealogy at the NGS 2021 Family History Conference

FALLS CHURCH, VA, 3 MAY 2021 — Award-winning author Ric Murphy and Janice Lovelace, PhD, author, educator, and family history researcher, will lead off lectures on African American genealogy at the [National Genealogical Society \(NGS\) 2021 Family History Conference](#). Both will present their virtual lectures during [NGS Live!](#) on 20 May.

Ric Murphy, a historian, scholar and lecturer, is a former Fellow at Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government. He has authored four books on African American history and has traced his own lineage to America's colonial period. His lecture is based on his most recent book, *The Arrival of the First Africans in Virginia*, and will focus on controversies sparked by their arrival and their present-day legacy.

Janice Lovelace, who authored the NGS online course, African American Roots: A Historical Perspective, has presented lectures throughout the US and abroad. She is a member of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) and an instructor at the Midwest African American Genealogical Institute. Her lecture will discuss where to find information on African American ancestors that is not online.

Seven additional lectures on African American genealogy will be available via [NGS On-Demand!](#) beginning 15 June.

Acclaimed genealogist Deborah A. Abbott, PhD, addresses the importance of analyzing and using collateral/cluster research to bring success to the genealogical process in African American research.

Winner of the 2013 NGS Family History Writing Contest, Leslie Anderson, MSLS, debunks ten common myths that hinder productive research and replaces

them with key facts and sources that lead to good results in her lecture, Pitfalls and Best Practices in African American Genealogical Research.

An expert on Northern Virginia history Amy Bertsch examines federal pension and claim records, along with local records, which helped identify enslaved African Americans in a rare Civil War photograph.

BYU-Idaho adjunct faculty genealogy instructor Katie Quick Derby discusses the resources and methodology used to uncover the story of the African American families that built and lived in a humble Charlottesville home.

Genealogy researcher Viola O. Baskerville, JD, and land conservationist Brett Glymph, JD, consider how their team's work to restore the historic African American Evergreen Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia, might serve as a sustainable model for similar restorations.

A member of the AAHGS National Editorial Board, Renate Yarborough Sanders, examines the lives of free people of color during the Antebellum era (1800-1865), the laws enacted to control them, and record types for researching this population.

A professional genealogist and a contributor for Proquest's African American Heritage database, Ari Wilkins, takes a look at some of the most unusual and underutilized African American records and where to find them.

[NGS Live!](#)—the Society's premier two-day virtual conference event on Wednesday and Thursday, 19–20 May —will also feature keynote speaker Barbara Vines Little as well as Eric Grundset, Thomas W. Jones, Elizabeth Shown Mills, Judy Russell, Craig Scott, and more. The other lectures will be part of **[NGS On-Demand!](#)** Starting 15 June, NGS will offer a choice of either a twenty or forty lecture package on-demand. Those who purchase a package may choose from more than **[eighty-five on-demand sessions](#)**.

To learn more about the NGS 2021 Virtual Family History Conference's weeklong events, 17–21 May, visit the **[conference website](#)**.

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Founded in 1903, the [National Genealogical Society](#) inspires, connects, and leads the family history community by fostering collaboration and best practices in advocacy, education, preservation, and research. We enable people, cultures, and organizations to discover the past and create a lasting legacy. The Falls Church, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian.